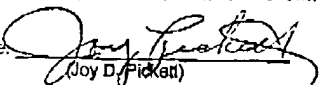


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 872-8308, on the date shown below.

Dated: 1-25-05

Signature:


(Joy D. Pickett)Docket No.: 21806-00157-US
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Robert T. Froebel et al.

Application No.: 10/707,864

Confirmation No.: 1863

Filed: January 19, 2004

Art Unit: 2812

For: ALIGNMENT MARK SYSTEM AND
METHOD TO IMPROVE WAFER
ALIGNMENT SEARCH RANGE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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JAN 25 2005

STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 09-0456, under Order No. 21806-00157-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 25, 2005
28673_1

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Myron Keith Wyche

Registration No.: 47,341

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant